

US Army Corps of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MPM-990011470
EVALUATOR:	Mr. Mike Miller
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5499
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	October 31, 2001
EXPIRATION DATE:	November 21, 2001

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division, Post Office Box 82135, Baton Rouge,

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has additional information on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of the cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

LA 70884-2135, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Mr. A. Harris Brown, President Brownland Corporation Post Office Box 2470 Monroe, Louisiana 71207-2470 <u>Location of Work</u>: Site 1 is located in section 35, T18N-R3E, latitude 32°34'05" longitude 92°08'07". Site 2 is located in section 2, T18N-R3E, latitude 32°34'29" longitude 92°07'27", within the Ouachita River drainage basin, Ouachita Parish, near Monroe, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

This is an after-the-fact permit application in which a portion of the work has been completed.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to fill 0.68 acre of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. for the construction of an access road, culverted road crossing, and a water control structure at two area lakes adjacent to the Ouachita River. The purpose of this project is to provide access for timber management and wildlife enhancement and management.

Site (1): Mr. Brown has cleared approximately 0.56 acre of wetlands for the construction of a 1,500 feet long x 15 feet wide access road with one culverted road crossing.

Mr. Brown has stated that the culverted road crossing goes across the remains of an old man-made ditch. Over time the ditch has become a natural spillway for the lake. Mr. Brown has placed a 48-inch diameter by 30-foot long culvert in the ditch and covered it with approximately eight cubic yards of four-inch rock. The local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office helped design the road crossing and has determined that it is sufficient to carry the water associated with this drainage system.

Site (2): Mr. Brown has filled approximately 0.02 acre of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. by placing approximately eight cubic yards of four-inch rock at this site to create a low-water crossing for access to his property. He also proposes to clear and fill 0.10 acre of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. for the construction of a water control structure. This structure would provide access to the property and would also improve open water habitat on approximately 30 acres of his property. Mr. Brown proposes to raise the road three feet higher than the pool stage of the Ouachita River and place a 22-inch diameter by 28-foot long flash board riser with a 30-inch diameter stand pipe to hold the water at a higher elevation during the waterfowl season.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States associated with mechanized land clearing and the discharge of dredged and/or fill material associated with the construction of a culverted road crossing and a water control structure require a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset

these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the 27 sites in Ouachita Parish listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit

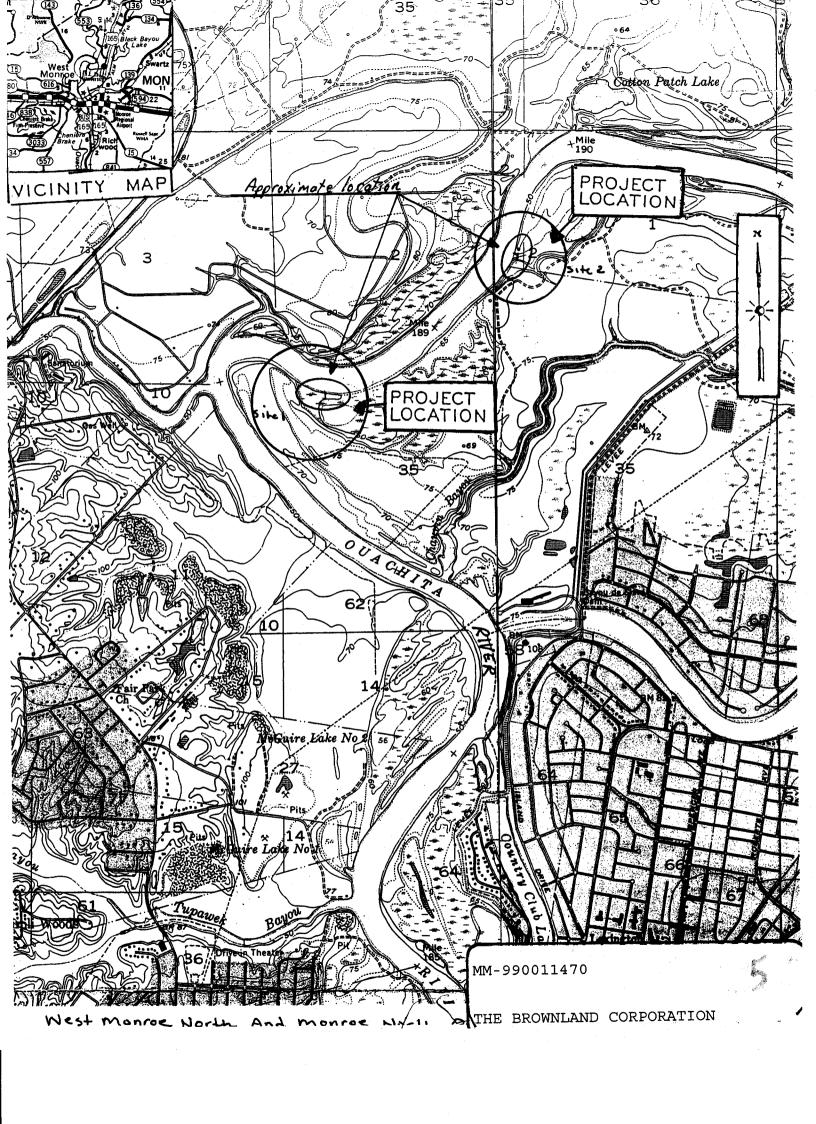
with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

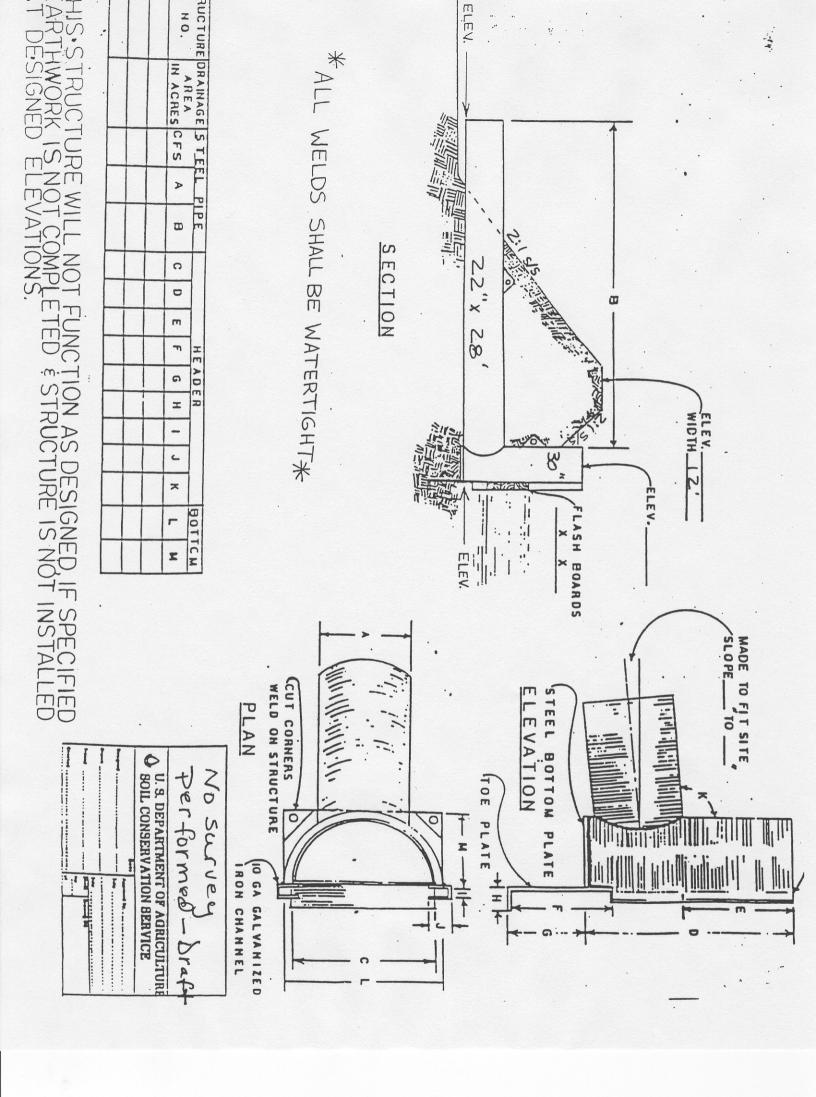
Opportunity for a <u>Public Hearing</u>: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

W. Harold Lee

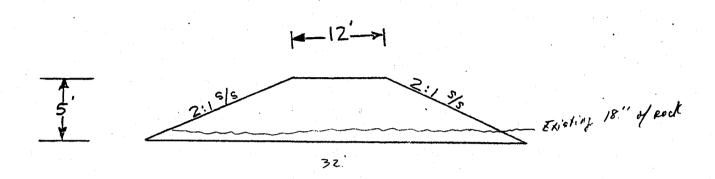
Team Leader

Evaluation Section





Brown Land Corp. Ouachita Parish, LA



For GTR

Proposed Dike: Draft - No Survey Derformed Top Width - 12 Ft. Side Slopes - 2:1 Iverage Height - 5 Ft. Approx. Length - 25 Ft. Estimated Yardage - 100 cubic Yards